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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 555
By White

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory and legacy of Mr. George Henry Nixon, founder of the town of Etheridge.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected officials of the State of Tennessee should pause to reflect on the legacy of our ancestors whose significant contributions and selfless efforts have redounded to the great benefit of present Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, these Tennesseans founded our communities, towns, and cities and contributed significantly to their growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy pioneer in Tennessee history is Mr. George Henry Nixon, whose meritorious service and dedication to this state are still remembered and appreciated by the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 17, George Nixon began his illustrious legal career as a law apprentice to the Honorable Solon E. Rose, Attorney General of the 11th Circuit Court and an early founder of Lawrenceburg; and

WHEREAS, after three years of apprenticeship, Mr. Nixon became a practicing attorney in the same year that he married Sarah E. Busby; and

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WHEREAS, at the age of 23, George Nixon served as the postmaster of the Scotia Post Office, before enlisting in the United States Army, and serving under future U.S. President, Zachary Taylor, during the Mexican War in 1846; and

WHEREAS, after the end of the Mexican War, Mr. Nixon returned to Tennessee and bought a farm; the house in which he lived on his farm is still standing today; and

WHEREAS, in 1848, George Nixon had the distinction of filling Davy Crockett's old seat, when he was elected as a state representative to the 28th Tennessee General Assembly; he held this important post until 1852, when he was elected to the State Senate for the 30th Tennessee General Assembly, which was the first General Assembly to meet in the present state Capitol Building; and

WHEREAS, in 1857, he was appointed registrar of Nemaha Land District of the Nebraska Territory by President Buchanan; he served with acumen and alacrity until he resigned his commission to join the Confederate Army at the outbreak of the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, in the Confederate Army, Mr. Nixon achieved the rank of Colonel and commanded the 48th regiment, which became known as Nixon's Regiment; and

WHEREAS, he fought with great bravery and valor for the Confederacy in the battles of Richmond, Kentucky, Perryville, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, and Franklin, in addition to serving in the Battle of Nashville under General Nathan Bedford Forrest; and

WHEREAS, George Nixon continued to render admirable service as an officer in the Confederate Army until May 11, 1865—two months after General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox; and

WHEREAS, after the Civil War, Mr. Nixon farmed and speculated in real-estate; he was then elected Chancellor of the Ninth Chancery Court in 1871 and served two terms; and

WHEREAS, in 1879, George Nixon, along with William Parkes and some other business partners, formed the Columbia & Florence Railroad; he served as its first president until 1886; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nixon was encouraged to run for Governor of Tennessee in 1882, a request which he declined. In the following year, he founded Wayne Station, which later became the great town of Etheridge; and

WHEREAS, in 1887, at the age of 64, George Henry Nixon departed this world for a better existence, leaving behind his indelible legacy of honor and probity; he was laid to rest on the Fourth of July at the Old City Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, as a demonstration of appreciation for his countless contributions to the Etheridge community and the state of Tennessee, the good people of Etheridge are honoring George Nixon with a day dedicated to his memory in July of this year, which special day will be commemorated with festivities and celebration; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those communities and their citizenry that are commemorating significant milestones and pause to reflect with them upon those outstanding public servants who preceded us in Tennessee's panoramic history; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the and indelible legacy of Mr. George Henry Nixon and salute his remarkable contributions to the town of Etheridge and to the state of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we join with the fine citizens of Etheridge in celebrating "George Henry Nixon Day," and encourage all Tennesseans to do the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.